

STATINTL

Truth on Castro Was Well Hidden, Eisenhower Says

LOS ANGELES, April 27 (AP)—Former President Eisenhower says it would have taken "a genius and a prophet" to determine for certain that Fidel Castro was a Communist until he publicly declared it in 1961.

"Until we knew he was, we had to avoid interfering with the sovereignty of another country," Gen. Eisenhower told a news conference yesterday.

He was asked about a recent statement by Richard M. Nixon that as Vice President he had forecast the dangers of Castroism in 1958 and had written a memorandum to that effect. Gen. Eisenhower replied that he had a "faint recollection" of the memorandum.

The memo was written after a meeting between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Castro. But, said Gen. Eisenhower, it was more a record of Mr. Nixon's impressions of Mr. Castro than evaluation of Mr. Castro's intentions.

"You must remember," said Gen. Eisenhower, "that we have an intelligence service, which the public pays millions of dollars to finance, whose job it was to collect information and evaluate it."